REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. New dependent claims 7-9 were added. Support is found in the specification on page 15, line 3-16.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art FIG 2 (hereafter "AAPA") in view of Liu (US 6,519,060).

Claim 1, as amended, now recites, a bi-directional optical ring network having a first ring network and a second ring networks for providing a protection switching, comprising, *inter alia*, a pair of switching devices, **wherein the pair of switching devices is configured to loop-back optical signals when a failure occurs between the nodes via one of the first or second ring networks.**

Similarly, Claim 4, as amended, recites, a bi-directional optical ring network having first and second ring networks for providing a protection switch, comprising, inter alia, a pair of switching devices, **wherein the pair of switching devices is configured to loop-back optical signals when a failure occurs between the nodes via one of the first or second ring networks.**

In contrast, Liu as illustrated in FIG 4 discloses wavelength slicer, which separates network input signals into a first set of channel 11 which are routed to another wavelength slicer 303 and a second set of channels 12 that are routed to another wavelength slicer 304 which transmits the input signals along optical path 13 to yet another wavelength slicer 404, then the inputted signal is combined with the first set of

channel 11 to wavelength slicer 402. In other words, Liu teaches taking signal **10** (Network input"), illustrated in FIG. 4, and transmits that signal through a series of wavelength slicers configured to 'slice up' optical signals and rejoin them in signal **15** ("back to the network"). Hence, Liu fails to teach or suggest a pair of switching devices which **loop-back optical** signals when a failure occurs in a working link of an optical ring network, as recited in the base claims.

Moreover, Lui can not be combined with applicant's own prior art as suggested in the pending Office Action. For example, connecting Lui's device by splicing "Network input" **10** and "Back to Network" **15** into AAPA's FIG. 2, "inner ring" **2** would not operate to loop back optical signals due to a failure, as in the present invention.

Therefore, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested as the references either alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest the present invention. as recited in the amended base claims 1 and 4.

Claims 1-6 are rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10 of Kim (7,133,609).

In response, applicants submit the attached terminal disclaim and note that common ownership will be maintained.
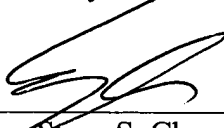
The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present

claims are patentable in view of the cited references.   A Notice of Allowance is

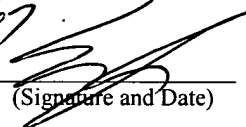respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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